

REMARKS

The first paragraph of the specification has been corrected.

Claims 1-22 of the application have been cancelled in favor of new claims 23 to 31. The new claims have been carefully crafted in view of the prior art cited by the Examiner, and great care has been taken to express the invention in appropriate limitations that clearly distinguish over the art cited of record.

The essential limitations of the new claims recite a specific method and apparatus for screening medical cases by screening a particular sequence of medical images for each case. The sequence is the same for all cases. The radiologic reviews the cases one at a time by reviewing the same particular sequence of images for each case. Pointers are provided to indicate the particular medical image of the sequence being screened and to indicate which case is being screened. A cache is used and a prefetch procedure is followed to be sure the next image to be screened is available. A particular algorithm is used in conjunction with a header regarding the cache to prevent overflow. The steps of the method and the structure of the apparatus are recited with particularity.

None of the cited prior art shows the now claimed invention. Form relates to the storage and access of documents. While there are superficial similarities, as they would be for such storage systems, this reference does not show the specifically claimed steps or the specifically claimed structure of the new claims 23 to 31. Cooke et al relates to a picture archiving and communication system designed to enable remote diagnosis. Cooke et al does not relate to screening of many medical cases containing multiple medical images, a portion of which are viewed during screening in a particular sequence. The same particular sequence of the same selected images is screened for each of the many medical cases. The present invention is directed toward a mass screening and the claims are specifically limited in this respect. Cooke et al does not show or teach the presently claimed invention as recited in claims 23 to 31.

Keller shows an image display and storage system that is mainly concerned with compression and decompression of images. Otherwise this reference is not relevant to the specifically claimed method and apparatus of the present invention as recited in

claims 23 to 31. Sidiropoulos is concerned with a window and level control tool that operates in real time and can quickly determine initial values for window and level settings such that a displayed image is always presented in a readable format. The Sidiropoulos disclosed technique transforms input image data into an image histogram. This histogram is then segmented into a small number of parts corresponding to structures of interest. Interesting, but hardly relevant to the presently claimed invention as recited in claims 23 to 31.

A Petition for a two-month Extension of Time is enclosed. Also enclosed is a Form PTO-2038.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time, time sufficient, to effect a timely response, and shortages in this or other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 500601 (Docket no. 739-X01-002)

Respectfully submitted,



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